

EXHIBIT 4  
DATE 2/11/2008  
HB 276

Board of County  
Commissioners  
Lee Iverson, Chairman  
J. Chris King  
Larry Ahlgren

Lisa A. Solt  
County Manager  
Treasurer, Assessor  
Phone 429-5551

Monte J. Boettger  
County Attorney  
Phone 429-5311  
535-8127

February 4, 2008

Representative Ron Stoker  
Chairman, Judiciary Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Re: HB 276

Dear Representative Stoker and Members of the Committee,

The Petroleum County Commission would like to go on record opposing House Bill 276 pertaining to county responsibility for the medical expenses of detainees.

The problem we see with the bill is two-fold. The first revolves around the definition of a "detainee"; the second relates to the increased financial responsibility placed on counties.

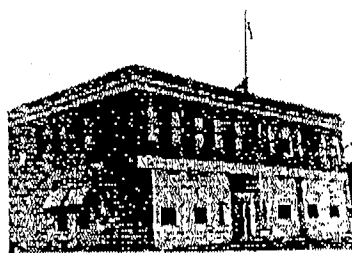
The unclear definition of the term "detainee" as proposed by this bill would make a county potentially responsible for medical costs incurred by anyone who has interaction with law enforcement regardless of the nature of the contact. For example, if a law enforcement officer stops a vehicle for a minor infraction (e.g., a tail lamp out), and the driver suffers a heart attack during this "direct interaction with law enforcement", the county could be liable for the medical expenses of the driver.

Moreover, the bill places financial responsibility on counties regardless of the law enforcement agency involved when the medical liability is incurred. Counties should not be responsible for medical expenses created by agencies not within their financial jurisdictional authority such as the Highway Patrol, the Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the Department of Criminal Investigation. Under the proposed bill, the actions of any agency with arrest powers within the State of Montana could involuntarily bind the county for detainee medical expenses.

In summary, the ambiguity of the language and the increased financial responsibility placed on counties by HB 276 make it an unworkable piece of legislation. We urge the Committee's support in defeating this bill.

Sincerely,

  
Lee Iverson, Commissioner



## COUNTY OF PETROLEUM

P.O. Box 226  
301 East Main  
Winnett, Montana 59087

Donna M. Lund  
Justice of the Peace  
Phone 429-5311

Mary L. Brindley  
Clerk and Recorder  
Clerk of Court  
Phone 429-5311

Glen C. Gillett  
Sheriff  
Phone 429-6551

R.J. (Dick) Brown  
Coroner  
Phone 538-8711

COUNTY FAX 429-6328

Members of the House Judiciary Committee  
Representative Ron Stoker, Chair

RE: Opposition to HB 276 – Clarify responsibility for persons injured by law enforcement

Chair Stoker and Members of the Committee:

Carbon County Commissioners would like to formally state their opposition to HB 276, due to the potentially devastating fiscal impact on our counties.

This bill encourages violent criminal activity and has the potential to create significant safety issues for our law enforcement officers. If an individual needs medical treatment, and does not have health benefits or any form of insurance coverage, their recourse is to commit a crime and resist arrest, which would then require law enforcement to use some level of force. Under the terms of this bill, they would then have their medical care costs paid by the county. Should the officer be injured during this event, the county is then responsible for their worker's compensation coverage and the balance of their salary during their recovery.

The terms used in this bill are vague and ambiguous. On page 3, line 6, it states "has been taken into custody or presumed (emphasis added) custody..." To presume is to assume – which leaves the determination unclear and subjective.

Additionally, on page 3, line 26 it states "in the treatment of a person's condition or injury that is directly attributable (emphasis added) to the person's interaction with a law enforcement officer..." Again, this term is unclear and open for subjective interpretation. There are many situations where it may take a considerable amount of time and investigation to determine how the injuries were sustained, and by whom.

It is our belief that by adopting laws with vague and ambiguous terms, it is providing a foundation for court challenges for the interpretations.

In 2005, the Legislature amended the inmate medical statutes, to make the counties the payor of last resort, to cap the rates for services to either the Medicaid reimbursement rate, a rate that is 70% of the provider's customary charges, or a negotiated rate. The purpose of the "negotiated rate" term was based on the fact that many rural hospital rates are below the Medicaid reimbursement rate. By amending this section, it will force rural hospitals to charge more for services to be in compliance, which will in turn, raise the costs to local governments.

By proposing to reduce the billing date from 120 days to 30 days, it is effectively relieving the health care providers from their duty to pursue third party payment, and placing the responsibility on the counties to do the follow-up billing and accounting. While page 5, line 25 of the bill does state that "if the health care provider is reimbursed by the inmate or the third-party payor after the provider has been reimbursed by the county, the provider shall refund to the county the amount that the provider was paid by the county for the services to the inmate". This places the responsibility for the accounting and tracking of those payments on the county. There is no incentive or requirement for the health care providers to pursue payment from the third party payors.

The economic crisis has no boundaries. The fiscal difficulties being faced by our federal and state government are being felt in counties as well. But more important, the residents of our state are being impacted through a lack of health insurance, rising energy costs, job losses, etc.

Under the terms of this bill, there is a potential for a fiscal impact to local governments that will be devastating to the residents of Montana. The added costs for the medical claims, workers compensation, accounting, etc., will have to be paid from somewhere. This would mean reducing county services and staff.

We would ask that you vote a "DO NOT PASS" on HB 276.

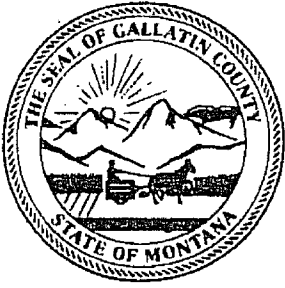
Sincerely,

*John E. Puntke, chairman*

*Dan M. Dineen*

Carbon County Commissioners

*Doug Puntke*



## GALLATIN COUNTY

311 West Main, Rm. 306 • Bozeman, MT 59715

County Commission

William A. Murdock

Joe P. Skinner

Steve White

Phone (406) 582-3000

FAX (406) 582-3003

Representative Ron Stoker, Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
HB 276  
February 2, 2009

Mr. Chairman and distinguished Representatives:

After reviewing the proposed legislative changes regarding medical costs of detainees we are very concerned.

The changes would create a new class of "detainee" for which the county will be responsible for all medical costs regardless of their cause or nature. County governments should not be held responsible for costs resulting from the actions of other law enforcement agencies. The County and other agencies should not be responsible for the costs of medical treatment for self inflicted injuries, preexisting conditions, or injuries sustained by criminals while committing a crime.

Additionally the reimbursement system is unrealistic. The county cannot access medical information for those charged with a crime to determine if it occurred while in custody or through interaction with an officer. The county doesn't have the legal ability to obtain medical records to question a medical history to defend against charges that were not a result of actions of law enforcement. It may in fact increase potential liability issues related to infringements of rights and protections of individuals provided by the Constitution and State and Federal law.

Even if the proposed legislation had an automatic appropriation attached the hospital associations have provided no statistical data on what the current costs are or project what they will be, and receiving a blind ongoing appropriation of this nature is unlikely.

This is not to say that paying for medical costs associated from interaction with law enforcement and corrections is not an issue, however, it is an issue that needs to have all the stakeholders involved in order to find an adequate and equitable resolution. We believe that continuing to work on a solution that addresses all the medical costs associated with law enforcement is crucial; however it needs to be done with all stakeholders at the table, not through a hasty legislative fix.

We would strongly encourage you to oppose any legislative proposals that shift more burden onto already strapped local governments.

Sincerely,

GALLATIN COUNTY COMMISSION

R. Stephen White, Chair

William A. Murdock, Member

Joe P. Skinner, Member

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is William "Bill" Nyby and I reside at 241 S. Dodge St. in Plentywood, MT. I am chairman of the Sheridan County Commission.

I provide this written testimony to you and am in opposition to HB276.

I am in opposition to the county being held liable for the costs of medical treatment of an individual, who may have committed a crime, if that individual is unable to pay for their medical treatment. I do not feel that it is fair or just to place the burden of payment for medical treatment of these individuals upon the law-abiding citizens and taxpayers of Sheridan County or any other county in the State of Montana. Local governments should not be penalized for performing their lawful duty to serve and protect the public.

If this bill were to become law, it would be extremely difficult to budget county funds for these unknown and unforeseen liabilities. Most county budgets are stretched to the maximum right now and this added liability would need to be funded by removing funds and services from some other function of local government.

In reading this bill, I have problems with pre-existing medical conditions, self-inflicted injuries, injuries attributable to interaction with law enforcement, who by the way are doing their job of protecting and serving the public, and injuries sustained while trying to resist or avoid arrest. I understand that the individual should be responsible for the cost of medical treatment in these situations, but Section 1 (4)(a) states that "If a hospital or provider is unable to recover the cost of treatment from the person, the county, as provided in subsection (4)(b), is responsible for reimbursing the hospital and the provider for services incurred by the hospital and the provider".

I do not have a problem with the county paying for hospital or provider services if the county has requested those services. Interaction with law enforcement injuries should be the individual's liability, unless gross negligence or undue force by law enforcement can be proven in a court of law.

I foresee many problems with this type of legislation. There will be unnecessary strain and conflicts between the local governments and the medical providers of the community that will probably result in more court cases to resolve the dispute of who pays. Law enforcement personnel will have restraints put on them by the governing body of the county when it comes to arresting individuals who have committed a crime due to the fact that this liability for medical costs will always be looming on the horizon.

The medical community and local governments need to come back to the table and iron out their differences in regards to this issue.

I thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments on this legislation and would appreciate your support in opposing this bill as it is written.

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William "Bill" Nyby, Sheridan County Commission

P.O. BOX 47  
FORSYTH, MT 59327  
406-346-2251  
FAX 406-346-7551

# ROSEBUD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Daniel D. Watson, Member  
Daniel M. Sioux, Member  
Robert E. Lee, Member

February 3, 2009

House Judicial Committee Members  
61<sup>st</sup> Legislative Assembly

RE: HB 276

Dear Members,

The Board of Rosebud County Commissioners wish to go on public record as being in opposition of HB 276.


We feel this bill as proposed would be an unfunded mandate on local government not withstanding the partial funding within this bill. This bill is incorrectly labeled as a detainee medical bill when in fact it attempts to address contacts with law enforcement prior to detention. The potential cost to county government is not known or possible to be projected. This bill as it is currently drafted could break any county budget in any particular year.

We would appreciate your consideration of our opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,  
Rosebud County Commissioners

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Daniel M. Sioux, Chairman

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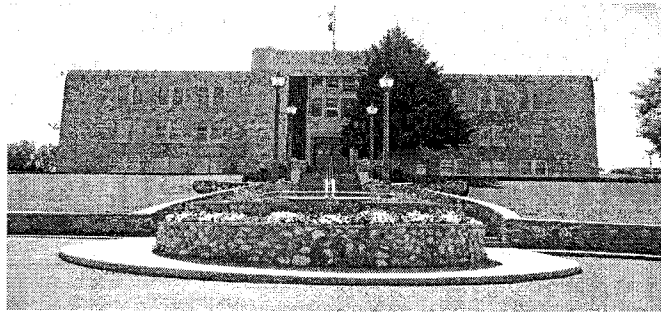
Daniel D. Watson, Member

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Robert E. Lee, Member

cc: Sheriff Randy Allies

**Allan Underdal,**  
Commission Chairman  
**Dave Miller,**  
Commissioner  
**Ben Ober,**  
Commissioner  
**Merle Raph,**  
County Attorney  
**Donna Matoon,**  
Sheriff  
**Dan B. Whitted,**  
Coroner  
Commissioners  
Office# 406-424-8310  
[tccomm@3rivers.net](mailto:tccomm@3rivers.net)



**Mary Ann Harwood,**  
Clerk & Recorder  
**Sandra Peers,**  
Clerk of Court  
**Boyd Jackson,**  
Treasurer/Assessor  
Supt. Of Schools  
**Helen I. Schnee,**  
Public Administrator  
**Russell Mann,**  
Justice of the Peace  
Clerk & Records Office#  
406-424-8300  
Fax# 406-424-8301  
[tcclerk@3rivers.net](mailto:tcclerk@3rivers.net)

# COUNTY OF TOOLE

226 1<sup>ST</sup> Street South  
Toole County Courthouse, Shelby, MT 59474

DATE: February 3, 2009

TO: House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Ron Stoker, Chairman

FROM: Toole County Commissioners by Allan Underdal, Chairman

SUBJECT: HB 276

We would like to go on record in opposition to this bill. We are in a somewhat unique position as we are both a county government and owner/operator of a local hospital (Marias Medical Center). On the surface, this may look like a necessary piece of legislation. The incident that seems to have spurred this legislation pits Yellowstone County against St Vincent's Hospital in Billings. We believe that a remedy is available to St. Vincent's, if they believe they are wronged, without resorting to legislation that drags all the other counties and hospitals in the state into the fray. The result of their seeking legislative rather than court relief could adversely affect taxpayers and county governments throughout the state. We urge you to vote NO on HB 276.

## Talia Knudsen

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**From:** Cyndi and Ken Johnson [cyndij@3rivers.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2009 9:49 PM  
**To:** Talia Knudsen  
**Subject:** HB 276

To the Honorable Representative Stoker and the Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Sheriff Darby S. Harrington/Wibaux County

Greetings, and thanks for reading this letter of deep concern. I am very strongly opposed to HB 276. It is possible that one incident in Wibaux County under this new bill, could effectively wipe my entire budget. Please do not allow this bill to become law!!

Sincerely,

Sheriff Harrington





# Barrett

## Hospital & HealthCare

90 Highway 91 South  
Dillon, MT 59725  
406-683-3000 -- Fax: 406-683-3011  
[www.barretthospital.org](http://www.barretthospital.org)

Tuesday, February 03, 2009

Jay Hansen, Sheriff  
Beaverhead County Sheriff's Office  
10 North Pacific Street  
Dillon, MT 59725

Sheriff Hansen:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Barrett Hospital & HealthCare to acknowledge that the relationship between the hospital and the Beaverhead county sheriff's office has been constructive in working out issues related to the security of detained persons and the cost of their medical care. I recognize that there are differences of opinions throughout the State as how best to handle the issues surrounding detained persons and the medical care that they may require.

Sincerely,

Steve M. Hannah, MHA  
Chief Executive Officer

# BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**Don K Swenson Chairman**

**Victor J Miller**

**Dolores Plumage**

**P.O Box 278  
(406)357-3250**

**Chinook, Montana  
59523-0278**

**Mr. Chairman and distinguished Representatives,**

HB 276 is really going to be a killer for local entities. You are probably going to hear testimony about this thing costing the state upwards of \$250,000 so far. The transaction that triggered all of this was one incident in one county. The total cost state-wide, I believe, has been about \$25,000 for all other instances.

This bill is being supported by, among others, by hospitals (one for sure, in particular). The impact, however, if passed is going to be huge.

We are in obvious opposition of this bill. At the very least, I would hope that the committee would take a closer look at the issue before passing this, if they are so inclined. Hope you are having a good day, fighting the good fight.

Vic Miller

**Blaine County Commissioners**

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**Don K Swenson, Chairman**

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**Vic Miller, Commissioner**

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**Dolores Plumage, Commissioner**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_

As Commissioners for Daniels County, we wish to register our opposition to HB 276. If the county is liable for medical costs of an individual who committed a crime or may have committed a crime, the county would have to increase taxes for the general public. Without the ability to levy an increase in taxes to pay for these medical expenses, other programs would suffer.

Restraints could possibly be put on law enforcement regarding arresting individuals who may have committed a crime, due to the liability for medical costs.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Daniels County, Montana

M. Shaun Donovan  
County Attorney

Maysha Vigue  
Legal Assistant

Office of the  
**MINERAL COUNTY ATTORNEY**

300 River Street - P.O. Box 339  
Superior, Montana 59872  
Telephone (406) 822-3535 Fax (406) 822-3822 email:sdonovan@co.mineral.mt.us

February, 3, 2009

Members of the House Judiciary Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Helena, Montana

Re: House Bill 276

Dear Committee Members,

Although apparently intended to resolve existing issues over who pays when uninsured individuals are taken to hospitals or other medical facilities by law enforcement, House Bill 276 creates many more problems than it solves.

To begin with, HB 276 makes the county financially liable not only for suspects who have been arrested but also those in "presumed custody" and those who "would likely be placed under arrest" but for their need for medical attention. Aside from the arguments that will surely ensue over the meanings of "presumed" custody and "likely" to be arrested, this bill interferes with the professional judgment of police officers, prosecutors and conceivably even judges, who up until now have always made the decisions about who will be arrested.

The medical cost connected with jailing and arresting suspects or convicted offenders has always been one of the factors considered in making custody decisions. A few years ago I asked, and the court agreed, to release a man from custody who had written \$2,500 in bad checks to local merchants. He was facing heart surgery that would have cost dozens of times the amount of the bad checks. If Mineral County had paid for that surgery we would have had to lay off at least one full time deputy sheriff. I was not happy to make that decision but, all things considered, felt it was necessary.

House Judiciary Committee  
Letter in Opposition to HB 276  
Page 2

As I read it, House Bill 276 would have allowed this defendant to leave the jail, check himself in for surgery and, because he had no health care coverage, insist the county pay his bill in full within 30 days! That is not progress. It is also a tremendous liability to counties like mine that are bisected by Interstate Highways carrying every description of good, bad, ugly and medically infirm travelers into and through Montana.

Increasing financial pressures on both medical providers and local governments have required hospitals and sheriffs departments to make a maximum effort to avoid both unpaid for services and inmate medical expenses. But the solution to those problems is not the one-size-fits-all approach of HB 276. It lies in trying to see that more Montanans, including those charged with crimes, have health care coverage. It also lies in letting hospitals and law enforcement agencies work out solutions that fit their individual circumstances.

Please vote against House Bill 276.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

M. Shaun Donovan  
Mineral County Attorney

Cc: Representative Gordon Hendrick  
Senator Greg Hinkle  
Montana Association of Counties  
Mineral County Board of Commissioners  
Mineral County Sheriff  
Mineral Community Hospital

This bill should NOT be allowed to pass. In the long run all it is going to do is cost the county detention centers more money and enable people to have more medical procedures done and prescriptions filled at the county expense.

We already have the MAJOR problem of arrestees stepping foot into our facilities and complaining that the medicine that they have NOT been taking for the last six months or so is now NEEDED.

We already have the MAJOR problem of arrestees complaining of medical and dental procedures which were supposed to be followed up with at home and choosing not to BUT when in our custody it is now emergent to get such procedures done.

Medicare, Medicaid, Indian Health Services and private insurance companies advise the detention facilities that after an arrest any previous coverage is not in effect any longer.

Many of these medical and dental problems have been festering for months sometimes years and have simply been ignored.

Many times an arrestee comes into a detention facility because they have been arrested for breaking the law and are quite irate (because they were caught) and self inflict injuries to themselves in hopes of getting out, again the county detention facility is paying for this.

At this time the medical facility simply has to bill the arrestee and if payment is not made within 120 days all they have to do is bill the detention centers to get payment.

Now this bill is requesting that payment be paid within 30 days by the arrestee and if he/she CHOOSES not to pay it, the county detention facility will be responsible in such a short time span. Insurance companies even get more time to pay their portion.

This bill is also wanting more responsibility thrown to the county detention facility such as:

When an officer does a simple welfare check on a vehicle/person and

there is an actual medical emergency going on and someone needs transport to a medical facility.

Simply put, this bill is stating that any **CONTACT** from any law enforcement officer for **ANY** reason puts the county and the detention center responsible for any medical.

This bill **WILL** break the counties and their required detention centers budgets.

We do need a new bill, **BUT NOT THIS ONE**, which requires the citizens of Montana to become responsible for their own selves and their own actions. We are never going to teach our children responsibility if we as adults and law makers do not begin to take on that responsibility first.

Sheila Ewald  
Pondera County Sheriffs Office  
Civil Dept.

7

*Flathead County*  
***Board of Commissioners***  
(406) 758-5503

Joseph D. Brenneman  
James R. Dupont  
Dale W. Lauman



Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

The Flathead County Board of Commissioners is opposed to adoption of HB 276. It fails to address the fundamental issue of developing an equitable funding mechanism for the very real concern of medical care providers. Instead of innovatively and genuinely addressing that issue it unfairly places enormous risk and potentially disastrous financial obligation on the taxpayers in the county.

The \$10,000 cap on exposure provides very little reassurance because the proposed source of funds, the medical special revenue account referenced in NEW SECTION, Section 2 is woefully underfunded. However, this section does contain a viable solution. Instead of placing individual counties at risk for potentially debilitating medical expenses over which they have no control, it is suggested that this fund be adequately funded so that all taxpayers in the state share in the risk.

The concerns that generated this bill are legitimate, but HB 276 is not the solution and we ask that this bill not be passed.

Sincerely,  
FLATHEAD COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Dale W. Lauman, Chairman

Joseph D. Brenneman, Member

James R. Dupont, Member



**Joe Brenneman**

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**From:** Kathy Frame  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2009 12:35 PM  
**To:** Joe Brenneman  
**Cc:** Mike Meehan  
**Subject:** HB 276  
**Attachments:** HB276.docx

Sheriff:

After reading this draft at your request, I have several points that should be brought up in testimony. Pre-Detention is not defined according to Webster's Dictionary and Black's Law Dictionary. Pre detention could mean all of us who are not in jail. The potential of law suits over the meaning past and present would tie up the courts and county attorney's offices.

The 30 day window requiring payment of medical bills by the counties is not reasonable, currently it is 120 days. Most felons take 6 months to 18 months to go to sentencing. The sentencing court at that time would determine ability to pay. These payments would be AFTER restitution, fines and supervision fees. Currently the Clerk of District court has nothing set up to process any court ordered medical payments.

This is a badly conceived bill with under reported monetary repercussions for all Montana Counties.

Attached is the two page letter you requested.

Kathy Frame  
Detention Commander  
Flathead Co. Sheriff  
406-758-5687

2/3/2009

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In considering the payment responsibility for pre-detention ( no definition exists) and detainee medical costs, I would ask that you review the following three examples in Flathead County.

These examples are of actual detainees with varying medical needs and criminal circumstances, but do represent a cross section of the usual medical bills generated and paid for by the county taxpayers.

1. Joe Doe is a 35 yr. old self employed tradesman. He has been arrested nine times on the last 6 years. This last arrest was Feb 11, 2008. He was arrested for Felony DUI. His shoulder injury occurred on Jan. 26, 2008, he was treated at the local emergency room on his own, then referred to an Orthopedic Surgeon. He did not follow up with the surgeon. Upon his arrest, several days later, he immediately complained of his shoulder, end result; surgery and a medical bill of \$11,095.05. Two weeks after surgery he was sentenced to Montana Department of Corrections and their WATCH program. Who pays this bill? Under proposed HB 276, Flathead County would, even if the court ordered Doe to because in 120 days he would not have completed his alcohol treatment program.
2. Bill Smith is an out of town visitor, age 22 and a landscape laborer. He becomes drunk and get into trouble. He loses his temper and puts his leg through a glass window. This all happened before he came to jail ( pre-detention?) and before law enforcement arrives. Result: Misdemeanor Criminal Mischief Charge and a hospital bill of \$682.12. The hospital billed Flathead County, I sent a letter to this man's residence, he called me and then called the hospital to arrange payment. Did the hospital try to collect in the 120 days? Would they try better in 30 days?
3. George Brown is a Native American from another state. Arrives here and connects with a church group for local support and stays. He gets drunk, into a fight and almost kills a man in a bar. He is

incarcerated for felony charges. His life of alcohol abuse put him in the hospital here, costs to the taxpayers of \$15,405.45.

The above examples are typical in any county in Montana and all involve cost to the county taxpayers who may have to think twice before they take their child into a doctor for a \$100 office visit. My question is if these men were found on the street and no law enforcement officer was involved, who would pay for their medical bills?

Flathead County currently has a Detention Medical budget of \$375,040 per year; this figure includes medical bills, contracted doctors and two staff nurses. The state fund proposed at \$250,000 a year for 56 counties. A single cardiac incident may cost that much, you could confirm this with a hospital.

HB276 will benefit only the medical providers, not the taxpayers. Interpretation of this purposed bill could be seen as county fiscal responsibility for anyone talking to law enforcement present, future and potentially past.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BIG HORN COUNTY  
P.O. BOX 908  
HARDIN, MT 59034**

**Fax (406) 665-9706**

**(406) 665-9700E-mail to: [cwells@co.bighorn.n](mailto:cwells@co.bighorn.mt)**

February 3, 2009

Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee  
State of Montana  
Helena, MT 59620

Attn: Representative Ron Stoke, Chairman

RE: House Bill 276 - Establishing Liability for Medical Costs incurred by  
Persons in Interaction with Law Enforcement

Dear Chairman Stoke and Committee Members:

Big Horn County hereby requests your opposition of HB 276, an act establishing liability for medical costs incurred by persons in interaction with law enforcement. Specifically, HB 276 would provide a statutory appropriation to pay for pre-detention medical costs for persons injured while involved in criminal activities. As you are aware, these costs could potentially be astronomical, and devastating to a county's budget.

We can sympathize with the rural county hospitals and their limited resources for operational costs. However it would be reprehensible to expect county taxpayers to absorb the pre-detention medical costs as outlined in HB 276.

In addition, HB 276 would eliminate the provision for a negotiated rate of payment to medical providers for indigent inmate care. Current law is quite clear regarding the payment of medical expenses of inmates held in county detention facilities including the reasonable time frames.

Please consider this request to oppose House Bill 276 for its negative financial impact to counties. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BIG HORN COUNTY, MONTANA

John Doyle  
Chairman